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Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRAYER BREAKFAST
REF: CAPE TOWN 46, 16, 33, DURBAN 12 (NOTAL)

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST (FORMERLY CALLED PRESIDENTIAL PRAYER BREAKFAST) HELD ANNUALLY FOR 23 YEARS, PLANNED AND ORGANIZED BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHO MEET WEEKLY FOR DISCUSSIONS AND PRAYERS ABOUT DELIBERATIONS FACING THEM

AS WELL AS NEEDS OF COUNTRY. FELLOWSHIP HOUSE, NONDENOMINATIONAL ORGANIZATION HEADQUARTERED IN WASHINGTON, ASSISTS IN ORGANIZING NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST. FORMER SENATOR HAROLD HUGHES AND FORMER REPRESENTATIVE JOHN DELLENBACK ACTIVE IN FELLOWSHIP HOUSE.

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2. ATTENDEES AT NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST INCLUDE

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PRESIDENT, CHIEF JUSTICE, CABINET MEMBERS, MEMBERS OF JUDICIARY, STATE GOVERNORS, MEMBERS OF FEDERAL EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS. OTHER GUESTS INCLUDE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS AND REPRESENTATION FROM BUSINESS, FINANCE, MILITARY, STATE AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS, ENTERTAINMENT, LABOR STUDENT AND YOUTH GROUPS AND SPORTS.

3. IN ADDITION TO DIPLOMATIC CORPS, INVITATIONS SENT TO DISTINGUISHED PERSONALITIES FROM MANY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING CABINET MINISTERS, MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, HOME-LANDS LEADERS, AND BUSINESSMEN. TOTAL PARTICIPATION AT NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST IS NEARLY 3,000. MORE THAN 1,000 SIMULTANEOUS PRAYER BREAKFASTS HELD ACROSS U.S. FEATURING PRE-RECORDED MESSAGES FROM MAIN PARTICIPANTS IN WASHINGTON EVENT.

4. SENATOR CLIFFORD HANSEN OF WYOMING EXPLAINS HOW PRAYER BREAKFAST CONCEPT DEVELOPED: "IT WAS DURING DARK AND CONFUSED DAYS FOLLOWING BOMBING OF PEARL HARBOR THAT FEW SENATORS JOINED TOGETHER WITH DAVID LAWRENCE TO SEEK DIVINE GUIDANCE. FROM THAT EXPERIENCE GREW IDEA OF MEMBERS OF SENATE MEETING EACH WEEK TO HEAR SPIRITUAL MESSAGE BY A MEMBER, FOLLOWED BY RESPONSES AND DISCUSSION."

5. FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS, MEMBERS OF SENATE (ON WEDNESDAY) AND HOUSE (ON THURSDAY) HAVE MET WEEKLY WHILE CONGRESS IN SESSION FOR PRAYER BREAKFASTS. MEETINGS ARE INFORMAL, NONDENOMINATIONAL AND BIPARTISAN, OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, FORMER MEMBERS, AND ELECTED OFFICIALS OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. THIS IDEA HAS SPREAD THROUGH "QUIET INFLUENCE" OF PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE COMMUNICATED WITH OTHERS IN THEIR OWN SPHERE OF INFLUENCE.

6. NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST INITIATED IN 1953 WHEN PRESIDENT EISENHOWER WAS INVITED TO JOIN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS IN SEEKING DIVINE GUIDANCE FOR NATION'S LEADER-SHIP. GENERALLY, FOLLOWING NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST, ABOUT 15 SMALL,PRIVATE SEMINARS HELD FOR DISCUSSION ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUILDING AND STRENGTHENING SPIRITUAL FOUNDATIONS OF U.S. AND OTHER NATIONS.

7. PRAYER BREAKFAST CONCEPT HAS REACHED 45 STATES OF U.S. WITH GOVERNOR'S PRAYER BREAKFASTS HELD ANNUALLY. SIMILAR ORGANIZATIONS SET AMONG GOVERNMENT LEADERS IN MORE THAN 70 COUNTRIES. SPONSORS OF NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST SAY AN OBSERVABLE RESULT HAS BEEN GRADUAL

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BUILDING OF CLOSER FRIENDSHIPS AMONG NATIONAL LEADERS
BY DEVELOPING SPIRITUAL TIES ON PRIVATE BASIS.
KISSINGER

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